

# AUTUMN 2017

THE  
**POETRY  
SCHOOL**

WHERE POETRY HAPPENS

Poetry courses and workshops  
throughout the country and online

[www.poetryschool.com](http://www.poetryschool.com)

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<https://acrobat.adobe.com/uk/en/acrobat/mobile-app.html>

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# WELCOME

At the start of our twentieth anniversary year, we are delighted to present our latest programme of workshops, courses, classes and studios designed to bring your best poems into being. If you're unsure of what to choose, give us a call in the office, and we'll give you some personalised advice. We look forward to celebrating our birthday year with you.

The Poetry School Staff




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## CONTACT

The Poetry School  
81 Lambeth Walk, London SE11 6DX  
**Tel:** 0207 582 1679  
**Website:** [www.poetryschool.com](http://www.poetryschool.com)

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## SOCIAL

-  Join us on Facebook at 'The Poetry School'
-  Follow us on Twitter @poetryschool
-  Our Instagram is @thepoetryschool

Sign up to our mailing list at <https://poetryschool.com/contact/>

Register for our online poetry community CAMPUS at <https://poetryschool.com/campus/>

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# THE CHARITY

The Poetry School's aim is to nurture new poetic voices through our programme of teaching and projects, and we are very grateful for all charitable support. Donations of any size help us to broaden our reach and ensure that everyone, no matter what their means, can participate in our activities via our hardship bursaries. The easiest way to give is online at <https://poetryschool.com/support-us/> or by sending us a cheque made out to The Poetry School to 81 Lambeth Walk, London, SE11 6DX. You can even choose to give on the phone when you book one of our courses.

If you are a UK taxpayer we can claim gift aid on your donation which makes it worth even more.

If you would like to talk further about giving to the Poetry School email Sally Carruthers - [execdiretor@poetryschool.com](mailto:execdiretor@poetryschool.com). She will be delighted to help you.

The Poetry School is a registered company, number 3434849 and a charity, number 1069314. We are proud to be one of Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations.

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# STAFF

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Programme Officer

## **James Trevelyan**

Admin Officer

Please email the team on  
administration@poetryschool.  
com if you have queries a  
bout bookings.

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# PARTNERS & FUNDERS

We are very grateful to all our funders, particularly Arts Council England, and to all our donors including The Paul Hamlyn Foundation, The Dovehouse Trust, Iain and Mariko Drayton and family and those supporters who prefer to remain anonymous.

## **Programme partners**

Partners with whom we are pleased to work this term include Newcastle University, Nine Arches Press, New Writing North and Malika's Kitchen.



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



Paul Hamlyn  
Foundation



**NEW WRITING  
NORTH**

Nine  
Arches  
Press

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# ABOUT THE POETRY SCHOOL

The Poetry School was founded in 1997 by poets Jane Duran, Mimi Khalvati and Pascale Petit. Since our earliest years, our courses and activities have encouraged poets and poetry to flourish, and we count many successful publishing and performing writers amongst our past and current students. Students, tutors and staff are all at different stages with their poetry. We have a wide variety of skills and interests, but all of us share a desire to improve our skills, expand our horizons and develop an audience for our work within a community of poets.

## Our Tutors

Some of our tutors are T S Eliot Prize winners, some have just published their first pamphlets, all are practising poets. We delight in their writing, are inspired by their teaching skills and welcome the introduction of their ideas to our students. We are also interested in developing poets' teaching skills, so if you'd like to teach for us, email [programme@poetryschool.com](mailto:programme@poetryschool.com) to start a conversation.

## What to Expect

Poetry School activities are friendly and relatively informal, with between 6 and 16 students in a group. In a teaching session, you might be given **Exercises** (specific writing tasks to inspire your own poems or ideas) or **Feedback** (comments on your work by tutors and / or other students); you might be **Reading** (close attention to published poems, looking for examples of technique, style, theme or form), **Writing** (working towards creating new poems throughout the duration of the course or workshop) or a combination of all these, and some courses will include tasks for you to work on at home.

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Some activities aim to pass on knowledge in a very structured way, some are designed to be sessions in which the creatively unexpected occurs. If you have a preference for a particular style of activity, contact the office to discuss the options. Many of our course groups create blogs or publications together, or head off for a drink after a session – students can be as solitary or social as they like!

Most of our courses and workshops accommodate writers with a wide range of experience, but some are specifically designed for beginners or more practised poets.

### **Here are our definitions –**

**Beginner** – someone who is in love with words, and wants to start arranging the best of them into the best order. You may have written a few poems already, and you'll have an idea about who your favourite writers are.

**Intermediate** – have you been writing for a few years or more, and are you ready to submit poems to magazines and competitions, or perform them at readings? Perhaps you do so already.

**Advanced** – are you on your way to a large portfolio of your own writing, and becoming confident about what you want to say and how you want to say it? Are you thinking about a pamphlet, or a first collection, or headline spots at poetry readings?

If you're a beginner writer who likes to be stretched, or an advanced writer who'd like a refresher course, we can usually find a course to accommodate you.

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# CONCESSIONS

Each Poetry School activity has three prices listed. The first is the standard price, the second is the price for over 60s, and the third is our **concessionary rate**. Concessions are currently available for...

- 25s and under
  - full time students
  - those who receive Job Seekers Allowance, Income Support, Working Tax Credit, Pension Credit, Universal Credit or Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
  - those whose sole source of income is the state retirement pension
- 

# BURSARY AND PAYMENT PLANS

If you aren't eligible for the concessionary rate but can't afford the full cost of taking part in Poetry School activities, we invite you to apply for a bursary to cover up to 75% of activity costs. The maximum you can apply for is £300 in any given year, though in exceptional circumstances we may be able to offer more. Priority is given to people who have not received financial support from us before. For more information and to apply for a bursary, visit the Bursary section on our website. The deadline for applications for this term's bursaries is 18 August. The Poetry School bursary scheme is supported by the generosity of students and other donors, for which we are very grateful.

We can also arrange **payment plans** for those who would like to pay in instalments.

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# WHEN & HOW TO BOOK

Booking is now open. The Poetry School is a small charitable arts organisation running on tight financial margins. **We'd be very grateful if you could book by 4 September, it helps us plan effectively - thank you!**

- If you are booking courses and workshops with us for the first time, all prices are 15% off (phone bookings only).
- No discounts on seminars, individual teaching or Travelling Workshops.

The quickest, easiest and cheapest way to book is online at **[www.poetryschool.com](http://www.poetryschool.com)** – search the list of activities by course name, tutor or keyword, and pay with a debit or credit card through our secure payment system.

You can also call the office on **0207 582 1679** to pay with a debit or credit card. To pay by post, please send a cheque made out to the Poetry School and include exact details of the course or workshop you would like to book, together with your name, address, email address and phone number.

**PLEASE NOTE:** each course or workshop needs a certain number of students in order to run. We make the decision about whether we are going to run each activity two weeks before it starts or happens, so if you are intending to book, please make sure you do so in plenty of time.

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# REFUNDS

- If you cancel your booking more than four weeks before the start date, we will refund you.
  - If you cancel your booking less than four weeks before the start date, we will refund you if we can fill your place from a waiting list.
  - There are no refunds available for talks and readings, and any requests for seminar and tutorial refunds will be discussed on an individual basis.
  - Any deposits you have made for activities that you cancel less than four weeks before the start date are unrefundable.
  - If we cancel a course, workshop, talk or reading, we will refund you in full.
  - Please be aware that we cannot refund any travel costs you may have incurred.
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# PLEASE NOTE

All details are correct at time of writing, and we will inform students of any changes to the advertised programme as necessary. Poetry courses and workshops are dynamic activities, and advertised content may occasionally be adapted to take account of students' needs.

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# ACCESS

The Poetry School classrooms in London are on the ground floor and accessible to wheelchair users, and we have an induction hearing loop system. Most other venues are accessible to wheelchair users, please contact us to check or visit our website. If you would like digital versions of handouts from courses and workshops, please let us know when you book, and we will do our best to arrange this for you.

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# LONDON

**How to find us** – unless otherwise listed, all of our London activities take place in our own classrooms either side of 81 Lambeth Walk. Our nearest tube stations are Waterloo and Lambeth North. For details relevant bus routes, visit the Transport for London website [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)

**By car** – there is very limited pay & display parking in Lambeth Walk.

**Food and Drink** – There are plenty of cafes and sandwich shops near Lambeth Walk – you're welcome to bring food back to eat in the classrooms before a session starts or during a lunch break. Tea and coffee are freely available on the house (donations welcome).

## 3 TERM COURSES WHICH START IN THE AUTUMN

### Which is the course for you?

All our 3 term courses have some common ground, but they vary in content, level and approach. Call us on 0207 582 1679 or drop [administration@poetryschool.com](mailto:administration@poetryschool.com) a line, and we will find the perfect course for you.

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## **Pamphlet / Portfolio**

**Tutor:** Wayne Holloway-Smith

**Day / Time:** Mondays, 6.45 – 8.45pm

**Duration:** 3 x 10 weeks

**Start Date:** 18 September

**Price:** £171, £162, £137

**Level:** advanced

Hands up if you've been working out your poems for some time now, and you don't know where to go next. Maybe you feel like you need a new direction, a push. Hands up if you feel like you've been doing this thing for a while now, and have an inkling there's a next level, but you're confused as to what that is or quite how to get there. There are many routes into this next phase, and this course will present those to you. Whether you're looking to construct a portfolio of your best work, thinking of getting your first pamphlet publication-ready, entering competitions, or simply looking for that new avenue of creative exploration, this course is for you. You will be part of a supportive network of critical poet-peers and exposed to some of the best new approaches to poetry available. You will discuss your own work extensively, alongside that of your class mates, and receive feedback and further advice, tailored to your individual needs as a writer. We'll guide you toward the next stage of your poetry career.

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## The Construction of the Poem

**Tutors:** various

**Day / Time:** Mondays, 6.45 – 8.45pm

**Duration:** 3 x 10 weeks

**Start Date:** 18 September

**Price:** £171, £162, £137

**Level:** intermediate

'On the simplest level, form functions for any poet as a kind of scaffold from which the poem can be constructed.' -- Michael Donaghy. *The Construction of the Poem* is a thirty-week course designed to give participants detailed knowledge of all aspects of the history and application of formal techniques in writing poetry. Sessions will be taught by different poets, based on their particular areas of expertise, so expect to be challenged and inspired by a variety of approaches and practices. From language and diction, to rhyme and rhythm, to lineation and verse forms (such as the sonnet and sestina), to more radical forms (such as prose poetry and concrete poetry) *The Construction of the Poem* will give you the tools of the trade needed to build the perfect poem. Details of tutors and sessions are on the website.

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## Take it Forward

**Tutor:** Ellen Cranitch

**Day / Time:** Mondays, 6.45 – 8.45pm

**Duration:** 3 x 10 weeks

**Start Date:** 18 September

**Price:** £171, £162, £137

**Level:** beginners

'I want to be able to speak and sing and make my soul occur...' Do these words of poet W S Graham strike a chord with you? Do you have a poem in you burning to get out? This new course for beginners aims to galvanize your creativity. Each week we'll

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read and discuss poems, looking at a range of contemporary work as well as seminal writers from the past. Meet Ocean Vuong's passionate prose-poems and Gerard Manley Hopkins' proto hiphop, examine the poems of everyone from Alice Oswald to Warsan Shire – these writers will inspire you to harness your own poetic impulse and take it forward.

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## **Taking Your Writing Further**

**Tutor:** Myra Schneider

**Venue:** 130 Morton Way, London N14 7AL

**Day / Time:** Tuesdays 1.30 – 4.30pm

**Duration:** 10 monthly sessions of 3hrs

**Start Date:** October 17

**Price:** £347, £309, £260 payable in two halves

**Level:** advanced

A group for poets who are beginning to get published which focuses on detailed feedback and discussion of your poems in each session. It begins with a poetry topic, and will include this year writing in voice, using specialized language, and drawing on research. To apply, please email six poems in a Word document to Myra: myraRschneider@gmail.com or post with email address/ SAE to the address above by October 10.

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## **Routes into Poetry**

**Tutor:** Tamar Yoseloff

**Day / Time:** Tuesdays, 6.45 – 8.45pm

**Duration:** 3 x 10 weeks

**Start Date:** 19 September

**Price:** £171, £162, £137

**Level:** beginners

This course is appropriate for beginners and those who have written some poetry but who would like to take a more

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structured approach to their writing. You will examine the basics of rhyme, metre, verse forms, lineation and stanza structure. Through exercises, reading, writing and feedback, you will also begin to construct a voice, to create shapes on the page and develop your first drafts with confidence. (If you are a complete beginner, we recommend you download our course *How to Write Poetry* before you take Tammy's course.)

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## **Level Up**

**Tutor:** Nick Field

**Day / Time:** Tuesdays, 6.45 – 8.45pm

**Duration:** 3 x 10 weeks

**Start Date:** 19 September

**Price:** £171, £162, £137

**Level:** intermediate

This course is for you if you're looking to take your poetry to the next level. You might be ready to submit your work for publication, or have had some poems published and now you're looking to take further steps with your work. This course will involve exploring themes, finding inspiration and investigating key texts to help you take your work up a notch, create new work and discover fresh takes on writing poetry. Plenty of feedback, lots of new ideas.

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## **Poem, Prompt, Pick & Mix**

**Tutor:** Jacqueline Saphra

**Day / Time:** Wednesdays, 6.45 – 8.45pm

**Duration:** 3 x 10 weeks

**Start Date:** 20 September

**Price:** £171, £162, £137

**Level:** intermediate

Looking to develop your writing through experimentation, play and close reading? Every week you'll read a selection

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of inspiring poems written on a particular theme: these will act as a springboard for your own work. In-workshop writing exercises will give you a working draft to develop and bring back to the group for discussion. There will be optional formal suggestions offered to motivate you, to help you to move away from familiar territory, to go on some poetry adventures and surprise yourself. The last two weeks of each term will be 'Students' Choice' where you'll have a chance to decide what the theme should be. The year will end with a public reading.

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## **Advanced Poetry Workshop**

**Tutor:** Matthew Caley

**Day / Time:** Wednesdays, 6.45 – 8.45pm

**Duration:** 3 x 10 weeks

**Start Date:** 20 September

**Price:** £171, £162, £137

**Level:** advanced

This advanced course will primarily focus on reading and developing your current work-in-progress through readings and discussion, feedback, re-drafting, looking at individual poems and poems-in-sequence, discussion of 'motives' and direction. Occasionally, at the right moment, this will be augmented by a writing task, a guest-poet or editor, a focus on a particular practitioner/poet/book, or a tangential-but relevant session in order to engender fresh thinking.

**To apply:** contact the office for details.

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## Poetry & Prose

**Tutor:** Myra Schneider

**Venue:** 130 Morton Way, London N14 7AL

**Day / Time:** Wednesdays 7.45pm – 9.45pm

**Duration:** 8 monthly sessions of 2hrs

**Start Date:** 11 October

**Price:** £185, £165, £139

**Level:** intermediate to advanced

A monthly meeting for those who have had some experience in writing poetry or serious creative prose, involving in-depth feedback to develop critical skills and close study of published texts. Myra has a particular interest in personal writing, an area in which she's widely published, also in narrative. To apply, please email three poems or short prose samples in a Word document to Myra: myraRschneider@gmail.com or post with email address/SAE to the address above by October 1.

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## Intermediate Poetry Workshop

**Tutor:** Matthew Caley

**Day / Time:** Thursdays, 2 – 4pm

**Duration:** 3 x 10 weeks

**Start Date:** 21 September

**Price:** £171, £162, £137

**Level:** intermediate

This is a course suitable for intermediate writers who want to improve their skills and develop new work. You'll look at published poems which are connected by form or theme, create your own poems in response, and then workshop them with your tutor and fellow students.

**To apply:** contact the office for details.

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## **Advanced Poetry Workshop with Special Guests 1 & 2**

**Tutor:** Kathryn Maris

**Day / Time:** Thursdays, 11am – 1pm (1), 2 – 4pm (2)

**Duration:** 3 x 10 weeks

**Start Date:** 21 September

**Price:** £171, £162, £137

**Level:** advanced

This advanced course will focus on the development of your own poetry through weekly homework exercises, reading assignments, lively group discussions and in-depth feedback on your poems in progress. Three visiting poets per term will give a short reading and discussion of their work, answer questions, and respond to student poems. Autumn guests, subject to confirmation, will be Declan Ryan, Jacqueline Gabbitas (poet and publisher), and Sarah Westcott.

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## **Saturday Sessions**

**Tutor:** Ros Barber

**Day / Time:** Saturdays, monthly, 10.30am – 4.30pm

**Duration:** 3 sessions per term

**Dates:** 23 Sept, 21 Oct, 25 Nov

**Price:** £177, £165, £139

**Level:** open to all

Does your poetry need a bit of a kick? Do you want to take poetry seriously, yet leave each session feeling uplifted? Spend time with a supportive tutor and friendly students. Join a group that gives considered advice, loves poetry and wants to like you and your work.

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## SHORT COURSES

### **A Conversation with the Past: From Sappho to Basho**

**Tutor:** Tim Dooley

**Day / Time:** Tuesdays, 6.45 – 8.45pm

**Duration:** 10 weeks

**Start Date:** 19 September

**Price:** £171, £162, £137

**Level:** open to all

This is one of a trio of student-centred courses designed both for experienced writers looking to widen their repertoire and for beginners looking for a more structured approach to their writing. You will have the opportunity to consider how much of today's poetry has its roots in the work of innovative poets from the past and to workshop new poems in the context of this discussion. Drawing on the work of poets from a wide range of cultures and traditions (from Medieval Ireland to the Tang dynasty and from ancient Sumeria to Renaissance Italy) you will continue to develop your individual approach to writing and start to build up a body of creative work with a definite individual identity. Through exercises, reading, writing, group feedback and small group planning sessions, you will be encouraged to construct an independent voice, while maintaining a dialogue with poetic traditions.

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### **Blake in Lambeth**

**Tutors:** Sophie Herxheimer & Chris McCabe

**Day / Time:** Thursdays, fortnightly, 6.45 – 8.45pm

**Duration:** 5 sessions

**Start Date:** 21 September

**Price:** £90, £86, £62

**Level:** open to all

Illuminate your writing with this Blakean explosion of

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word, image and London walking. Artist and poet Sophie Herxheimer, and Chris McCabe, poet and author of *Real South Bank*, have summoned the spirit of William Blake to inspire new works combining text and art. This course builds on a previous two-days walking and printmaking course led by Chris and Sophie, only this time there is further opportunity to read more deeply into Blake's poems, to write poetry in response to his ideas, and to consider collage as a visual form that captures the layered energies of London. William Blake lived in Lambeth between 1790 and 1800, creating his original techniques for fusing poetry with painting and printing, later writing 'from Lambeth we began our foundations, lovely Lambeth'. Herxheimer and McCabe will revisit these foundations with walks to Blakean sites to gather ideas and material for later work to be developed.

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## **Child's Play**

**Tutor:** Chrissy Williams

**Day / Time:** Thursdays, fortnightly, 6.45 – 8.45pm

**Duration:** 5 sessions

**Start Date:** 19 October

**Price:** £90, £86, £62

**Level:** open to all

Callooh! Callay! All work and no play makes Jack a dull poet! Come and unleash your inner child with a series of poetic games and experiments designed to push, pull, skip, hop and pole-vault your poetry into new areas. We'll look at all sorts of different children in poetry, from Carroll's beamish boys to Plath's loud vowels rising like balloons, and reconnect with our own childhood selves. We'll also look at a wide range of different games that may be applied to your poetry writing, so you can approach the page in a different way -- from the Oulipian sublime to musical chairs. Get ready to sit down when the music stops and try something new.

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## Hyper-Spectacle

**Tutor:** Emma Hammond

**Day / Time:** Thursdays, fortnightly, 6.45 – 8.45pm

**Duration:** 5 sessions

**Start Date:** 28 September

**Price:** £90, £86, £62

**Level:** open to all

Poetry is a revolutionary act. But where can poetry exist within a spectacular society that often fails to separate advertising from art, spin from reality? This course will focus on how to use poetry as a tool for interference in an ever-increasing media 'spectacle' in which words change their meaning rapidly. On the timely 50 year anniversary of Guy Debord's book, *The Society of the Spectacle*, we will use guerrilla tactics to write poetry where it has no business being, creating disturbances and surprises for an unsuspecting public. Emma will also be teaching a version of this course online – this is the first time we've run the same course in two places, and we're hoping for lots of fruitful cross-collaborations.

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## SHORT WORKSHOPS

### Play On: Live Music Inspiration

**Tutor:** Jacqueline Saphra

**Dates:** 9 September and 14 October

**Time:** 10.30am – 4.30pm

**Price:** £144, £136, £116

**Level:** open to all

'O for mortals, what / Power there is in songs, / What greatest happiness / That can make bearable this / Short narrow channel of Life!' (Sophocles, tr Reginald Gibbons). What can music do for your poetry? What can your poetry do for music? In this short course you'll have the opportunity to use the experience of live music as a starting point for writing new poems. We'll begin

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with an experiential workshop with discussion of published poems that are inspired by music. You'll choose two contrasting concerts to go to in the month that follows, and using some tips and optional writing tools and constraints, you'll write poems that we'll workshop in the second session.

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## **Foraging and Poetry**

**Tutor:** Richard Osmond

**Date:** Sunday 10 September

**Time:** 10am – 3pm

**Price:** £72, £68, £58

**Level:** open to all

As well as a poet, Richard Osmond is a wild food forager, spending his days searching for wild fruit, herbs and fungi among the hedgerows of Hertfordshire. This practical, in-person session serves as introduction to our online course, *A Poet's Herbal: Useful Lore for the Poet Outdoors* but also stands alone as a separate session. Richard will meet you at Redbridge tube station, and you'll spend the day being inspired by nature. Instead of a lightbulb turning on above one's head, imagine a white mushroom appearing in the undergrowth. You'll be given practical advice on how to stay safe and informed when foraging, complete quick writing exercises based on the plants you encounter, and after a few hours outside the group will retreat to the pub. The session will finish at Wanstead tube station. A full immersion in the world of foraging, giving you perspective to inform your future ventures into nature.

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## **Flamboyance**

**Tutor:** Katrina Naomi

**Date:** Saturday 7 October

**Time:** 10.30am – 4.30pm

**Price:** £72, £68, £58

**Level:** open to all

Would you love to give your poetry some much-needed

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oomph? Would you love to add glitz to your titles, an edge to your imagery and glitter to your subject matter? Would you love to take risks in your writing? Are you willing to consider excess, even 'bad taste'? This workshop will consider flamboyance and exuberance, with a focus on the poetry of Peter Redgrove. No previous knowledge of Redgrove's work is necessary. Come prepared to bang words, images and ideas together – and to write, a lot.

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## **Language, structure and style: a course for teachers and educators**

**Tutors:** Ellen Cranitch and Mario Petrucci

**Day / Time:** Saturdays, monthly, 10.30am – 4.30pm

**Duration:** 3 sessions per term

**Dates:** TBC

**Price:** £187, £175, £149

**Level:** open to all secondary level English teachers

This course is designed with teachers and educators in mind and offers a way of acquiring secure technical knowledge to support teaching about poetry and the participants' own writing. Developed in association with Poetry By Heart ([www.poetrybyheart.com](http://www.poetrybyheart.com)) and adapted from 'The Construction of the Poem' and other Poetry School courses, these sessions are designed to give participants detailed knowledge of all aspects of the history and application of formal techniques in writing poetry. Aspects of form will be illustrated with examples taken from Poetry By Heart's print timeline anthology and from Forward's *Poems of the Decade*, currently a set text for Edexcel. Examples will include readings and recitations as well as printed text, and there will be additional coverage of poetry memorisation and recitation from Poetry By Heart.

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## **Voice Workshop for Poets**

**Tutor:** Nicola Collett

**Date:** Saturday 21 October

**Time:** 10.30am – 4.30pm

**Price:** £72, £68, £58

**Level:** open to all

In this introductory workshop, we will explore alignment and physical release, bringing awareness to how we breathe and how voiced sound is created. We will be doing exercises to free the voice and develop its range and resonance. How can voice work lift images off the page? How can we communicate effectively and clearly when reading poetry to a live audience? Please wear loose, comfortable clothing and bring a poem that you are happy to share with the group. The workshop will be practical, informative and fun!

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## **Displacement**

**Tutor:** Ruth Padel

**Date:** Saturday 28 October

**Time:** 10.30am – 1.30pm

**Price:** £43, £41, £35

**Level:** open to all

What does the theme of 'displacement' mean to you? The moving on of a protestor, exile from one's home country, something more psychological? Interpret the subject as broadly as you like, then bring a poem in any form of up to 50 lines on the theme, and workshop it with Ruth and your fellow students. We'll be publishing 'displacement' writing prompts in the run up to the session.

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## Poetry & Visual Art: Margate & London

**Tutor:** Tamar Yoseloff

**Dates:** 18 November (Margate) and 9 December (London)

**Time:** 10.30am – 4.30pm

**Price:** £144, £136, £116

**Level:** open to all

Poets have long drawn inspiration from painters and sculptors; with the rise of a new generation of artists challenging traditional media, can we find in them a source for poems which push boundaries in a similar manner? We will visit gallery spaces to engage with contemporary art and to encourage new poems in response. The course will be held over two Saturdays: the first day for gallery visits, the second day to workshop poems stemming from the gallery experience. The gallery day will take place at Turner Contemporary in Margate, where artist John Davies will give a talk on two major sculptural works, *Scarecrows* and *My Ghosts*. Participants will also have an opportunity to view a retrospective exhibition on Jean Arp, with particular focus on his poetry; and Tracey Emin's controversial work, *My Bed*. This will be followed by a workshop session back at the Poetry School. Travel guidance will be on the website.

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## Empathy

**Tutor:** Sarah Howe

**Date:** Saturday 2 December

**Time:** 10.30am – 4.30pm

**Price:** £72, £68, £58

**Level:** open to all

'How difficult is it for one body to feel the injustice wheeled at another?' Claudia Rankine's question points towards the possibilities and the limits of empathy, our capacity to cross the border between 'self' and 'other'. Looking at poems that invite us to try on someone else's shoes – or question the attempt – we'll range from questions about 'lyric', to mirror neurons, to cultural appropriation, through a mixture of reading, discussion and writing.

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# ONLINE COURSES

**All online courses take place in CAMPUS, our social network for poets. In CAMPUS, students use a Facebook-style platform to chat with friends both privately and publicly, participate in live chats, submit poems and download learning resources.**

**Interactive courses** last 10 weeks, consisting of one assignment posted per 'session' every fortnight. Each session, you will be expected to post poems in response to the assignment within a week, after which students will begin to feed back on each other's work in their unique CAMPUS online group forum. Each session culminates in a 2 hour live chatroom discussion with your course tutor, where all the latest poems are discussed in a free-flowing, live-typed discussion. All live chats are then transcribed and archived for students to re-read whenever they want. New assignments are posted after each live chat.

**International courses** are exactly the same as Interactive courses, but there are no live chats, making them accessible to students who live in all international time zones. All feedback on these courses is written.

**Feedback courses** have no live chat component or assignments and focus on the close editing of existing poems. Students share and leave written feedback within their CAMPUS online group forum only. These courses are suitable for UK and international students.

**Studios** are short, intensive poetry writing courses that last 3-4 weeks and have no live chat component. They have a minimal focus on group feedback and editing, and are suitable for all UK and international students.

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**Masterclasses** are 12 week courses (spread over 6 sessions) with a deep consideration of technical craft and critical theory. For advanced students only: fluency with poetic language and ideas will be assumed. There are no live chats and they are suitable for UK and International students

**Please note:** Online courses are open to all students but a basic level of digital literacy is essential. The Poetry School can help you with CAMPUS technical issues, but you need to be a confident user of digital platforms to take part in these classes. To find out whether an online course is right for you, please email [online@poetryschool.com](mailto:online@poetryschool.com).

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## INTERACTIVE COURSES

### **A Poet's Herbal: Useful Lore for the Poet Outdoors**

**Tutor:** Richard Osmond

**Duration:** 10 weeks / 5 sessions

**Course starts:** 18 September

**Live chats:** Mondays, fortnightly, 7pm GMT

**First live chat:** 2 October

**Price:** £104, £99, £83

**Level:** open to all

This ten-week online course accompanies our one day Foraging and Poetry workshop and will further examine many of the ways a close engagement with the natural world can inform poetic practice, looking specifically at plants and fungi. Each session will include a practical element, encouraging participants to go out and experience nature for themselves. We'll also look at some of the earliest poems written in English, found accompanying herbal remedies in Old English medical texts.

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## **Signifying nothing? (Or, how to say diddly squat and not learn anything from it)**

**Tutor:** Eley Williams

**Duration:** 10 weeks / 5 sessions

**Course starts:** 19 September

**Live chats:** Tuesdays, fortnightly, 7pm GMT

**First live chat:** 3 October

**Price:** £104, £99, £83

**Level:** open to all

What do I know? What am I even trying to say? Whether it's thinking that one must make time for a Muse to descend or believing that certain conditions must be met in order to begin writing properly, poetry is easy to put off when it is freighted with ideas of meaningfulness. This course seeks to flip writer's block on its head and turn lack of inspiration into a source for creative ideas, challenging the idea of 'purposeful' writing by exploring notions of meaninglessness as its own powerful medium: the art of saying it best when you say nothing at all.

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## **Site-seeing**

**Tutor:** Holly Corfield Carr

**Duration:** 10 weeks / 5 sessions

**Course starts:** 20 September

**Live chats:** Wednesdays, fortnightly, 7pm GMT

**First live chat:** 4 October

**Price:** £104, £99, £83

**Level:** open to all

Pack a bag. We're going on a field trip. After a tour of all our favourite writing spots, we'll set out to locate the places where our poems happen. We'll take all our provisions along with us. Alice Oswald's nightbook. Sean Borodale's beekeeper's

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veil. A handful of Emily Dickinson's envelopes. Richard Long's walking map. And we won't need to go far. Most of us write at our desks, on the bus, in our beds. These are rich and peculiar landscapes that roll under our work. We just need to stay put and explore. (This is a repeat of a course that has run previously.)

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## **The Unsent, Unanswered Letter**

**Tutor:** Melissa Lee-Houghton

**Duration:** 10 weeks / 5 sessions

**Course starts:** 21 September

**Live chats:** Thursdays, fortnightly, 7pm GMT

**First live chat:** 5 October

**Price:** £104, £99, £83

**Level:** intermediate

We address others every day in our correspondences and messages, but there are so many correspondences we write that are never sent, or which go awry, bounce back, remain unanswered or need to be kept private. Beginning with Ted Hughes' *Birthday Letters*, we will incorporate the 'I' and 'you' into poems written to a particular addressee. We will then create imaginary email correspondences, write letters to our future selves, and draft epistolary vignettes that evoke those feelings that are most difficult to articulate: guilt, regret, loneliness, hope and pain. (This is a repeat of a course that has run previously.)

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## **Word Power: Poetry and Ritual**

**Tutor:** Kate Potts

**Duration:** 10 weeks / 5 sessions

**Course starts:** 25 September

**Live chats:** Mondays, fortnightly, 7pm GMT

**First live chat:** 9 October

**Price:** £104, £99, £83

**Level:** open to all

According to T S Eliot, 'All art emulates the condition of ritual'. On this online course we will examine the relationship between poetry and ritual, creating new work inspired by a variety of oral, ritual forms including incantation, litany, lament, prayer, and rites of passage, and study the enduring influence of ritual forms and traditions in contemporary poetry. We will also consider the uses of ritual as part of our personal writing process, working to discover how ritual processes might encourage and inspire new and different kinds of work. (This is a repeat of a course that has run previously.)

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## **Re-Make Believe: Shaping the Fairytale**

**Tutor:** Miriam Nash

**Duration:** 10 weeks / 5 sessions

**Course starts:** 26 September

**Live chats:** Tuesdays, fortnightly, 7 – 9pm

**First live chat:** 10 October

**Price:** £104, £99, £83

**Level:** open to all

Fairy tales are the ideal literary medium for children – often blending outlandish myth and feats of imagination with the performative energy of poetic speech – but they have long been equally prized by adults for their ability to powerfully

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embody universal truths and shared/shifting identities through metaphor. In this course, we'll give ourselves the space, time and reading materials to explore the spirit of the fairytale – and its recasting – in our poetry, drawing on tales from our childhoods (and adulthoods).

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## **To Be Continued... Writing Poem Sequences**

**Tutor:** Suzannah Evans

**Duration:** 10 weeks / 5 sessions

**Course starts:** 27 September

**Live chats:** Wednesdays, fortnightly, 7pm GMT

**First live chat:** 11 October

**Price:** £104, £99, £83

**Level:** open to all

What can a sequence of poems achieve that other poems can't? Sustain an episodic narrative, support atmospheric vignettes, discuss a many-sided argument, look at the same object from many points of view, create suspense, map the creative process – there are always plural possibilities. In this course we'll be experimenting and exploring the potential of the poem sequence – freeing ourselves from the straightjacket of '40 lines or less'.

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# INTERNATIONAL COURSES

These courses are suitable for international students, as well as those based in the UK. They are the same as our interactive online courses, however there are no live chats (all feedback is written) and the courses can be completed from any time zone.

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## The Lyric Essay

**Tutor:** Nuar Alsaadir

**Duration:** 10 weeks / 5 sessions

**Course starts:** 18 September

**Price:** £104, £99, £83

**Level:** intermediate

What happens if we trust the impulse that moves our mind from one thought to another without ever merely explaining or telling the story straight? This course will look at the lyric essay, a genre-mixing attempt to bring the process of essay writing closer to the sensibility of the lyric form. A relatively new category of writing – not quite poem, narrative, memoir, nor an idea-driven essay, but something ‘other’, recently popularised by writers such as Maggie Nelson and Claudia Rankine - the lyric essay will help us guide our inner voice in more open and intuitive directions, provoking all the quirky, vivid details of genuine thought.

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## Our Hospitable Languages: Writing Multilingual Poetry

**Tutor:** Elżbieta Wójcik-Leese

**Duration:** 10 weeks / 5 sessions

**Course starts:** 19 September

**Price:** £104, £99, £83

**Level:** open to all

Languages welcome newcomers. They like to mingle, blunder and tease. They cannot be walled off or purified. As language

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users, we extend this hospitality by making 'foreign' phrases our own: shopping in Polish or Mexican food sections; leafing through phrasebooks in Hong Kong or Berlin; tracing etymologies of words. To explore the hospitality of English, we will read the work of five multilingual poets and then write our own multilingual poems, challenging the boundaries between domestic and foreign.

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## **Poems of Love, Poems of Praise**

**Tutor:** Zeina Hashem Beck

**Duration:** 10 weeks / 5 sessions

**Course starts:** 25 September

**Price:** £104, £99, £83

**Level:** open to all

To look at the brokenness within and around us and still choose to write poems of praise is an act of resistance. To consider the political moment we live in today and still choose to write love poems is an act of defiance and perhaps self-preservation. From romantic and sensual pieces written for/inspired by lovers and ex-lovers, to poems for children, places, friends, parents, lost ones, the body, God, and the self, we'll consider how love poems are inherently political in their insistence on wonder, and we'll attempt to do what Rainer Maria Rilke describes in the following lines: 'O tell us, poet, what is it you do? --I praise.'

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## **Speaking in Tones: Crafting Musical Poetry**

**Tutor:** Jodie Hollander

**Duration:** 10 weeks / 5 sessions

**Course starts:** 26 September

**Price:** £104, £99, £83

**Level:** open to all

Our language-making is inseparable from our musical sense;

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as Duke Ellington famously said, 'It don't mean a thing (if it ain't got that swing).' On this course we'll look at how to craft a musical poem by studying some of the basics of metrical poetry and investigating how sound works within the poetic line. Students will learn how to create an ear-pleasing poetry, with a special focus on tempo, pacing, crafting a line in iambic pentameter and the effective use of line breaks. More broadly, we'll consider how sound works as a gateway to the senses and how musicality creates its own kind of meaning within a poem.

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## MASTERCLASS

### Fragments: The Bed of the Imaginary

**Tutor:** Kathryn Maris

**Duration:** 12 weeks/6 sessions

**Course starts:** 18 September

**Price:** £179, £169, £143

**Level:** Advanced

Roland Barthes listed these modes of writing as examples of literary fragments: 'haiku, maxim, pensée [and] journal entry'. Fragmentary approaches to poetry, popular with the Modernists and again with the Postmodernists, is having a revival due, in part, to the influences of the internet and social media. In this genre-bending course, we will look at poets, fiction writers, philosophers and psychoanalysts who think and write in fragments, use techniques of interruption, or whose work survives in fragment form. For advanced students only. (This is a revised expansion of a course that has run previously – please email us for more information.)

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## STUDIOS

Poetry Studios are short, intensive poetry writing courses that last 3 weeks, cramming all the content of a weekend workshop into a few online sessions. Unlike our standard 10 week courses, the emphasis on 'Studios' is more heavily skewed towards writing and getting words on the page, with a softer focus on group feedback and editing. There are no live chats, and a portfolio of reading material will be submitted in advance.

### Stand-Up Poetry Studio

**Tutor:** Eric Berlin

**Duration:** 3 weeks/sessions

**Course starts:** 18 September

**Price:** £79, £75, £63

**Level:** open to all

In a world where late-night monologues and panel shows increasingly shape our understanding of world events, stand-up comedy has become one of the most subversive and persuasive forms of popular rhetoric. Together, on this short course, we'll turn to the living oral literature of stand-up comedy for lessons that apply to our poems. Each principle will be drawn from a stand-up routine and further illustrated in works by various poets who have been enchanted by oral genres, as well as those who perform in the burgeoning 'stand-up poetry' scene today.

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## **Hyper-Spectacle Studio**

**Tutor:** Emma Hammond

**Duration:** 3 weeks/sessions

**Course starts:** 2 October

**Price:** £79, £75, £63

**Level:** open to all

Poetry is a revolutionary act. But where can poetry exist within a spectacular society that often fails to separate advertising from art, spin from reality? This Studio course will focus on how to use poetry as a tool for interference in an ever-increasing media 'spectacle' in which words change their meaning rapidly. On the timely 50 year anniversary of Guy Debord's book, *The Society of the Spectacle*, we will use guerrilla tactics to write poetry where it has no business being, creating disturbances and surprises for an unsuspecting public.

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## **Art Thieves Studio: Robbing Techniques from the Artist**

**Tutor:** Alice Lyons

**Duration:** 3 weeks/sessions

**Course starts:** 6 November

**Price:** £79, £75, £63

**Level:** open to all

The boundary between poetry and visual art is porous and well-traversed. On this Studio course we'll cross the border and raid the artist's studio, borrowing compositional techniques and then applying them to the writing of poetry. The focus is to connect with language as an art material that can be honed, shaped and sculpted. We'll sketch from observation (and erase), explore mid-tones and high contrast, play with colour, pattern and scale, and consider the role of perspective and the viewer's standpoint.

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# ONLINE FEEDBACK COURSE

Do you have a heap of discarded poems which just won't work no matter how many revisions you make? Our Online Feedback Course provides a place for the general improvement of left-for-dead poems in need of resuscitation. Bring poems of any shape or size once a fortnight and receive detailed feedback from your tutor and general advice from fellow students. This course is ideal for those looking to ready poems for magazine submission.

**Tutor:** Claire Trévien

**Duration:** 10 weeks / 5 sessions

**Course starts:** 18 September

**First poem submission deadline:** 2 October

**Price:** £79, £75, £63

**Level:** open to all

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# POETRY COURSES TO DOWNLOAD

Download poetry courses and lessons direct from our website. They are non-interactive - perfect for those who want to learn at their own pace. Pay online at [www.poetryschool.com](http://www.poetryschool.com)

## COURSES

Our download courses contain dozens of themed reading and writing exercises to work on by yourself. **How to Write Poetry** by Nigel Forde and **Towards a Collection** by Pascale Petit are £10 each; **Poetry & Autobiography** by Graham Fawcett, **Routes into Poetry** by Tamar Yoseloff is £15.

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## FREE SHORT DOWNLOADS

Short downloads contain a brief burst of advice about a specific area of craft or inspiration - perfect for breaking open new ideas. Plenty of ideas for beginner, intermediate and advanced writers – all available free on [www.poetryschool.com](http://www.poetryschool.com)

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## AUDIO DOWNLOAD

Urban wandering and the practice of 'psychogeography', as adopted by such writers as Iain Sinclair, Paul Farley and Chris McCabe, can influence the rhythms and subjects of our poems. Tamar Yoseloff's self-guided tour of Clerkenwell and Bloomsbury is designed to generate new poetry, though a combination of historical fact and literary reference. Download a map and the MP3 file for £5.

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# MANCHESTER

Activities in Manchester take place in the **Friends' Meeting House**, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS, the **International Anthony Burgess Foundation**, Engine House, Chorlton Mill, 3 Cambridge Street, Manchester M1 5BY and **Manchester Art Gallery**, Mosley Street, Manchester M2 3JL.

## The Power Of Place

**Tutor:** Edmund Prestwich

**Venue:** Friends Meeting House

**Day / Time:** Fridays, weekly, 7 – 9pm

**Duration:** 5 Sessions

**Start Date:** 22 September

**Price:** £90, £86, £72

**Level:** open to all

The influence of place touches every point in our lives, shaping us and our feelings about who we are and what we want to be. Places where we are inspire feelings of familiarity and belonging, entrapment and exile. Remembered or imagined places evoke ways of life we've lost or never had. In this course we'll look at how different poets have harnessed some of this power in their poetry. We'll explore how we can incorporate their strategies into our own writing and will workshop poems produced by members of the class. Poets we look at will include Eliot, Yeats and Larkin, Derek Mahon and Sarah Maguire, Baudelaire, Cavafy and Seferis and a range of younger contemporaries.

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## From the Archives

**Tutor:** Martin Kratz

**Venue:** The Anthony Burgess Foundation

**Day / Time:** Tuesdays, 7 – 9pm, weekly (except final session, which skips a week and is Nov 28 not 21)

**Duration:** 5 Sessions

**Start Date:** 24 October

**Price:** £90, £86, £72

**Level:** open to all

The International Anthony Burgess Foundation in Manchester contains thousands of manuscripts, correspondences, photographs and artefacts relating to the life and work of the novelist Anthony Burgess. While being renowned and celebrated as the author of the controversial novel *A Clockwork Orange*, Burgess is less well known as a composer, translator and, yes, poet. This course offers the opportunity to explore, through your own writing, some of the unique items held at the Burgess Foundation. Every week a different object will provide the focus for that session, from miniscule musical matchboxes to hand-designed tarot cards. Drawing on the poetry of both Burgess and others, the course will stimulate a range of poetic responses to the archives. It will also include time for feedback and discussions of your work.

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## Saturday Sessions

**Tutors:** Ann Sansom & Peter Sansom

**Venue:** Manchester Art Gallery

**Day / Time:** Saturdays, Monthly, 10:30am – 4pm

**Duration:** 3 sessions per term

**Dates:** 23 September; 14 October; 18 November

**Price:** £59, £55, £50 per session

**Level:** open to all

Three individual sessions, each of which combines brilliant writing exercises with insightful, supportive feedback. These writing Saturdays will make a genuine difference to your poetry. A suggested reading-list and shared reading and writing tasks at home (between sessions) will further the group experience. Ann and Peter will alternate tutoring the days.

## EXETER

Activities in Exeter take place in the **Exeter Community Centre**, 17 Saint Davids Hill, Exeter, EX4 3RG.

## Dwellings

**Tutor:** Andy Brown

**Venue:** Exeter Community Centre

**Day / Time:** Thursdays, fortnightly, 7 – 9pm

**Duration:** 5 Sessions

**Start Date:** 28 September

**Price:** £90, £86, £72

**Level:** open to all

How do poets write about the places where they live: the people, the natural history, the human history, work, myths, the

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language and the local distinctiveness of a place? We will look at lots of inspiring examples and do plenty of writing ourselves. At each session there will be a chance to explore new techniques and ideas, to draft poems, and then to do some homework and bring in a new poem for sharing at the following session. By the end you should have a small group of poems on this unified theme.

# BRISTOL

Activities in Bristol take place in **The Hours**, 10 Colston Yard, Colston Street, Bristol BS1 5BD.

## **Landscape / Portrait**

**Tutor:** Holly Corfield Carr

**Venue:** The Hours

**Day / Time:** Mondays, fortnightly, 7 – 9pm

**Duration:** 5 Sessions

**Start Date:** 18 September

**Price:** £90, £86, £72

**Level:** open to all

Taking you from initial sketches to the editing decisions involved in framing the finished piece, this course will teach you how to look at the bigger picture of your poems. Over five fortnightly sessions, we will use a range of playful and keen-eyed exercises borrowed from the best good lookers – poets but also painters, photographers, sculptors – to examine how you can make use of pattern, perspective or a carefully-positioned detail to bring real depth to the people and places of your written world.

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# SEMINARS

Seminars meet monthly for in-depth discussions on poems in progress, with a tutor on hand to offer additional advice, guidance and feedback. Groups contain between six and eight students. A successful seminar group enables supportive critical friendships to develop, so you are encouraged to commit to all eight sessions.

As far as we can, we arrange seminars according to levels of interest and experience. Tell us what sort of writer you are and which tutor you'd like to work with, and we'll try and find the right match for you right match for you. Seminars usually begin in October, but sometimes places become free during the year – contact us for details.

**London** seminar groups are run by Jacqueline Saphra, Robert Vas Dias and Tamar Yoseloff.

Jacqui Rowe runs a group in **Birmingham**

Greta Stoddart runs groups in **Bridport** and **Exeter**

Susan Wicks runs a seminar group in **Kent**

Antony Dunn runs groups in **Leeds** and **York**

Alice Kavounas runs a group in **Penzance**

Lucy Lepchani runs a group in **Plymouth**

Moniza Alvi runs a group in **Wyndham**

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# INDIVIDUAL TEACHING

Lots of our tutors give one-to-one tutorials in person or by email - contact us for details. A one-to-one session with a poet can give you personalised feedback on a selection of your work, advise you on submitting to magazines or discuss translation issues – tell us your particular requirements, and we'll find someone to help at a convenient time and place for you. Longer tutorials can easily be arranged too.

**Tutorials in person – £100:** The price is for an hour of tutor preparation time, and a one hour meeting, based on a submission of 200 lines of poetry.

**Tutorials by email – £100:** The price is for a c1,000 word comment on a submission of 200 lines of poetry.

**Manuscript Assessment – £300:** The price is for a face-to-face session or email commentary on a book or pamphlet length submission of no more than 40 x 30 line poems (1,600 lines in total).

**Mentoring – £800:** The price is for a committed working relationship with a mentor for between 8 and 12 months, to include 6 x one hour face-to-face sessions or 1,000 word email commentaries on 250 lines of poetry at a time, personalised reading and writing tasks, and guidance on next steps towards publication and life as a working poet.

Poets who teach individuals are listed on the website – to discuss a tutorial, assessment or mentoring arrangement email [administration@poetryschool.com](mailto:administration@poetryschool.com), call **0207 582 1679** or visit [www.poetryschool.com](http://www.poetryschool.com)

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# TRAVELLING WORKSHOPS

Travelling Workshops are a menu of activities we can organise for you anywhere in the country. If you've got an existing writing or reading group, we can bring a workshop to you for a set fee.

Poet tutors who offer Travelling Workshops are Mandy Coe, Graham Fawcett, Mario Petrucci, Clare Pollard and Tamar Yoseloff. Each of them has workshops for beginner, intermediate and advanced writers; and there is a degree of flexibility in what they teach. For more details of this service and to order your own travelling workshop, visit [www.poetryschool.com/contact/travelling-workshops.php](http://www.poetryschool.com/contact/travelling-workshops.php) or email [coordinator@poetryschool.com](mailto:coordinator@poetryschool.com)

PLEASE BOOK BY  
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